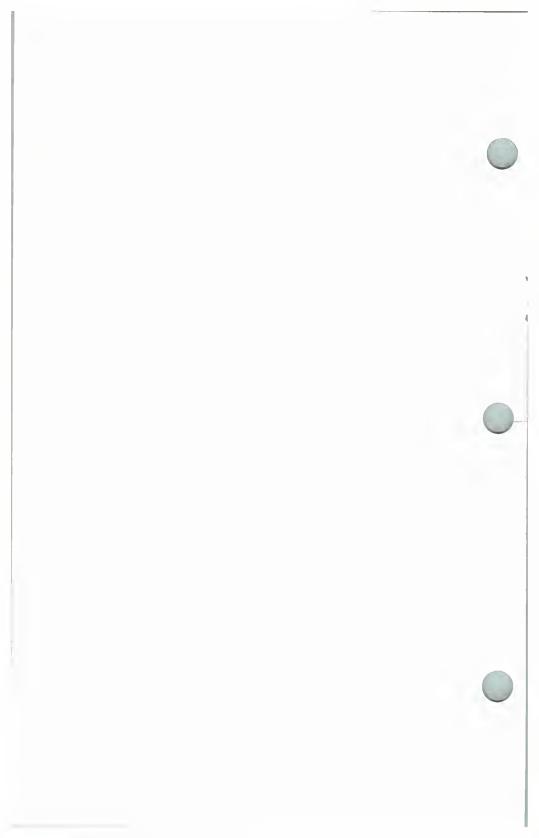# IMPORTANT NOTICE

Convenience Commands for Use of Other Vendors' Software

This insert provides description and reference text for two convenience commands that are now provided along with MD-DOS. These commands, BOOTF and NODEBUG, are provided for occasional use.

While most IBM-compatible software will run successfully on your Z-100 PC system, some vendors' software may not execute properly because the programs are designed for systems equipped with only floppy disk drives or because they trigger the debugger inherent in the Z-100 PC Monitor ROM. BOOTF and NODEBUG are provided to help you use the few programs that are problematic for one or both of these reasons.

Keep this insert with your manual for reference; it need not be inserted into existing text.

BOOTF (Transient)

Purpose

Enables you to execute non-ZDS floppy-disk based programs that
do not run correctly on systems equipped with a Winchester disk
drive.

Entry Form

BOOTF

Preliminary Concepts

Some vendors' copy-protected programs that are designed to run
on floppy-disk based systems may not run correctly on systems
that are equipped with a Winchester disk. This is occasionally
the case when such programs are run on a Z-100 PC
microcomputer, even though the Z-100 PC was carefully
designed to eliminate many of the incompatibilities that exist
between floppy- and Winchester-disk based systems sold by other
microcomputer manufacturers.

If you have a Winchester-equipped Z-100 PC and experience
difficulty with another vendor's IBM-compatible software, you
may use the BOOTF utility to effectively turn off your Winchester
disk drive while running the problematic program. Some of the
symptoms of problems that BOOTF may remedy are:

- recurrence of invalid copy-protection violation messages;
  and

- recurrence of system "lock-up," where the system hangs and
  the drive-active indicator LED for the floppy disk drive
  remains lighted.

NOTE: BOOTF will not be of help in running problematic programs if your system is not equipped with a Winchester disk drive.

Command Line Entry

To most effectively use BOOTF, the utility should be located on the Winchester disk partition that is the current default disk. The floppy disk containing the program that you wish to run must be bootable, even though it will not be accessed until after your system has been booted up and a Winchester disk partition is the current default disk.

When you wish to run the floppy-disk based program, insert the disk in drive A and enter

BOOTF

at the system prompt and press **RETURN**. When BOOTF is loaded into memory, two things happen. First, the system effectively turns off the Winchester disk drive (that is, the existence of the drive is ignored). Second, the system performs a boot sequence using the disk in drive A. If the sequence is successfully completed, you may then run the program using *only* the floppy disk drive(s). Note that you will *not* be able to access the Winchester disk drive again until you reboot or reset your system.

NODEBUG (Transient)

Purpose

Turns off the debugger resident in the MFM-150 Monitor ROM so that you can run non-ZDS program software that otherwise will not execute properly because it triggers the debugger.

Entry Form

NODEBUG

Preliminary Concepts

One of the powerful features built into the Z-100 PC microcomputer is a complete debugger that is part of the MFM-150 Monitor ROM. Since IBM microcomputer systems do not include this feature, some vendors' IBM-compatible programs may not run on the Z-100 PC because they activate the MFM-150 debugger. This problem is evidenced by the monitor ROM's performing a register dump when you try to invoke the program. A typical register dump display is shown in Figure I.1. Notice that the register dump is followed by the monitor prompt (->).

```
AX=0000 BX=0000 CX=0000 DX=0000 SP=FFEE BP=0000 SI=0000 DI=0000
CS=0D7B DS=0D7B SS=0D7B ES=0D7B IP=0100 FL= NC PE NA NZ NG EI UP NV
0D7B:0417 CC      INT    03H
->
```

Figure I.1   Typical Monitor ROM Register Dump

If you experience this problem when attempting to run another vendor's IBM-compatible software, you may reboot your system (using other than the program disk that produced the problem), use NODEBUG to effectively turn off the monitor ROM debugger, and then invoke the program in question again. NODEBUG may be used in any Z-100 PC system, regardless of the system's disk drive configuration.

Once you use NODEBUG, the MFM-150 Monitor ROM debugger will remain turned off until you reset or reboot your system.

Command Line Entry

To invoke NODEBUG, enter

NODEBUG

at the system prompt and press **RETURN**. If the utility is not on the disk in the default drive, you must precede the command name with the appropriate drive name (*d:*).

Using NODEBUG in a Batch File

Once you have determined that NODEBUG enables you to run a program that otherwise will not run on your system, the simplest way to invoke the program in the future is through a batch file that invokes NODEBUG and then invokes the program.

For example, suppose you have an application program named SPELL.COM that triggers the monitor ROM debugger unless you first use NODEBUG. To simplify use of the SPELL program, you can create a batch file named SP.BAT that contains the following commands:

- NODEBUG
- SPELL

Note that the batch file cannot have the same primary file name as the program file because of the hierarchical order in which the system recognizes .COM, .EXE, and .BAT files for execution.

To simplify matters, the batch file and NODEBUG should both be on the same disk as SPELL.COM. Then, whenever you wish to run SPELL, you can simply enter

SP

or

d: SP

at the system prompt and press **RETURN**.

For more information about creating and using batch files, refer to Chapter 5, "Command Features."